

A Campaign Finance Guide for Political Action Committees and Continuing Committees

This guide is intended only as a summary to aid understanding of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Law. For the Law's complete requirements, consult the Law itself, codified at Chapter 130 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

A Political Action Committee is defined in the Missouri campaign finance law as a "continuing committee."

Definition

A continuing committee is a committee of continuing existence which is not formed, controlled or directed by a candidate, and is a committee whose primary or incidental purpose is to receive contributions or make expenditures to influence or attempt to influence the action of voters whether or not a particular candidate or candidates or a particular ballot measure to be supported or opposed has been determined at the time the committee is required to file any statement or report.

A continuing committee includes, but is not limited to, any committee organized or sponsored by a business entity, a labor organization, a professional association, a trade or business association, a club or other organization and whose primary purpose is to solicit, accept and use contributions from the members, employees or stockholders of such entity and any individual or group of individuals who accept and use contributions to influence or attempt to influence the action of voters.

Connected Organization

Any organization such as a corporation, a labor organization, a membership association which expends funds or provides services or facilities to establish, administer or maintain a committee or to solicit contributions to a committee from its members, officers, directors, employees or security holders. An organization SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE A CONNECTED ORGANIZATION if more than 50% of the persons making contributions to the committee during the current calendar year are members, officers, directors, employees or security holders of such organization or their spouses.

Statement of Organization

A treasurer of a committee shall file a statement of organization with the appropriate officer within twenty days after the person or organization becomes a committee but no later than the date for filing the first report required pursuant to the provisions of section 130.046 RSMo.

Treasurer's Responsibilities

The treasurer is the key to campaign finance record keeping and the reporting of campaign finance information. The duties of the treasurer are numerous and helpful information may be obtained from reviewing "[A Treasurer's Guide for Campaign Finance Reporting](#)", published by the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Time for Filing Activity Reports

A continuing committee reports on a quarterly basis by the 15th day of the month following the end of the quarter.

	<u>Report Due</u>
January-February-March	April 15th
April-May-June	July 15th
July-August-September	October 15th
October-November-December	January 15th

A continuing committee shall submit additional reports at the following times and for the following periods:

1. Not later than the 40th day before an election, for the period closing on the 45th day prior to the election, if the committee accepts contributions or makes expenditures in support of or opposition to any candidate or ballot measure at the election and the quarterly disclosure report filed for the period immediately prior to the election was filed more than 40 days before the election;
2. Not later than the 8th day before an election for the period closing on the twelfth day before the election if the committee has made any contribution or expenditure either in support or opposition to any candidate or ballot measure at the election;
3. Not later than 48 hours after the receipt of any late contribution of more than \$250 received after the 12th day before the election;
4. Not later than 48 hours after aggregate expenditures of \$500 or more are made after the 12th day before the election; and,
5. Not later than the 30th day after an election for the period closing on the twenty-fifth day after the election, if the committee has made any contribution or expenditure either in support or opposition to any candidate or ballot measure at the election.

Multiple Filing Requirement

A continuing committee shall file any required campaign finance reports with the Missouri Ethics Commission and the election authority for the county in which the committee is domiciled. The term "domiciled" means the address of the committee listed on the Statement of Committee Organization.

If a continuing committee makes an expenditure, other than a direct contribution, which aggregates more than \$500 to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure in the jurisdiction of an election authority, other than the one in which the committee is domiciled, the continuing committee shall file a copy of the report disclosing the expenditure with the election authority for that jurisdiction.

Expenditure

An independent expenditure made by a continuing committee or a political party committee in support of a specific candidate is not a contribution to that candidate, if made without the direction, control, influence, cooperation or consent of the candidate. There is a reporting requirement but no limit on the amount of an independent expenditure.

Independent Expenditure Report

In addition to other reports, a continuing committee and/or a political party committee shall report the amount of independent expenditures for or against a candidate or ballot measure during the period covered and the cumulative amount of expenditures for or against candidates or ballot measures, with each candidate being listed by name, mailing address and office sought.

Expenditures made in support of more than one candidate or ballot measure shall be apportioned reasonably among the candidates or ballot measures. This information is reported on Missouri Ethics Commission Form POCD 4 (Direct Expenditure Report).

Independent Contractor Expenditure Report

If, in describing an expenditure, the committee uses the words "consulting or consulting services, fees or expenses" or similar words, to disclose an expenditure to an independent contractor, the committee shall also complete a Missouri Ethics Commission Form CD 8 (Independent Contractor Expenditure) in which the committee shall identify the specific service provided including, but not limited to, public opinion polling, research on issues, print or broadcast media production and/or purchase, computer programming, direct mail production, phone solicitation, fund raising, and the dollar amount prorated for each service.